



Latrobe Valley Naturalist

September – October 2021

Issue No. 613

Print ISSN 2208-4363
Online ISSN 2208-4371

Office bearers

President: David Stickney
Secretary: Rose Mildenhall
Treasurer: Marja Bouman
Publicity Officer: Alix Williams
Magazine editor: Tamara Leitch
Conservation Coordinator: Irene Proebsting
Archivist: Marja Bouman
Webmaster: John Sunderland

Contact

The Secretary
Latrobe Valley Field
Naturalists Club Inc.
P.O. Box 1205
Morwell VIC 3840
info@lvfieldnats.org
0428 422 461

Website

www.lvfieldnats.org

General meetings

Held at 7:30 pm on the
fourth Friday of each month
at the Newborough Uniting
Church, Old Sale Road
Newborough VIC 3825



An Eastern Banjo Frog, or Pobblebonk, *Limnodynastes dumerillii* photographed by Denis Nagle during the Club's excursion to Witts Gully in November 2020.

Upcoming events

Bird Group: Thursday 18 November – EA Wetlands survey. Meet 9am onsite.

November general excursion: Saturday 20 November – Mt Hedrick. Details TBC.

Botany Group: Saturday 27 November – Grasses at Alberton Cemetery & Old Port Trail. Details TBC.

2021 Bird Challenge Count 2 – 5 December, details on page 11.

Club Christmas party: Saturday 11 December. Details TBC.

Bird Group: Tuesday 17 December – Moondarra State Park and Caringal Scout Camp. Meet 9am cnr Telbit & Moe-Rawson Rd.

Club Summer Camp 2022: 4 – 8 February at Mt Hotham

Botany Group: Saturday 12 February – plants from Summer Camp

Back from the Brink: Saving the Eastern Barred Bandicoot on Phillip Island

Our guest speaker on Friday 27 November was Dr Duncan Sutherland, Deputy Director of Research at Phillip Island Nature Parks. Duncan's presentation, via Zoom, provided an overview of the conservation effort to establish a self-sustaining wild population of Eastern Barred Bandicoots on Phillip Island.

The mainland subspecies of Eastern Barred Bandicoots is currently listed as 'extinct in the wild' (a subspecies still exists in Tasmania, but is also declining). The last confirmed sighting was in 2002 near Hamilton, however a captive breeding program commenced in 1988 and now there are approximately 1000 individuals in 7 populations within the species' former range west of Melbourne (3 fenced, 3 on islands and 1 captive).

These bandicoots live for only 2-3 years, but have high reproductive potential. They are strictly nocturnal, omnivorous and play an important role as an ecological engineer. Weighing only 600-900g, they nest in dense vegetation or rabbit burrows, but can dig hundreds of small holes per night while foraging for food, which improves the structure of the soil and cycling of nutrients and water, and creates microhabitats for small invertebrates.

Like many other small to medium-sized Australian mammals that have gone extinct, their decline is considered to have been largely due to predation by introduced predators, particularly foxes and cats, and exacerbated by a loss of suitable habitat.

Due to isolation limiting ongoing immigration of predators, the feasibility of predator eradication on islands is greater than on the mainland. Fox control has occurred on Phillip Island since the mid-1950s, although the techniques used have diversified in recent years, and monitoring of their efficacy has improved.

Until the early 1980s, foxes were killed on an ad hoc basis as part of a bounty system, and there was no monitoring to determine whether this was having any significant impact on the population. Then a coordinated program was developed, involving collection of carcasses, and there was some subjective assessment of the program's effectiveness. For the next decade, a number of control techniques were trialled including dog hunting, baiting, spotlighting, leg-hold traps, den fumigation and M44 injectors. The number of foxes killed using each method, and the reduction of impacts in the area, were scientifically evaluated.

In 2006, an ambitious plan was hatched to not just control foxes on the island, but to eradicate them, which required a coordinated baiting effort on public and private land, and monitoring of fox numbers using spotlighting, camera traps and fox detection dogs. Based on control efforts and numbers of fox sightings, a Bayesian catch-effort model was developed to calculate the optimal time to declare that foxes had successfully been eradicated and to cease control efforts. Phillip Island declared itself fox-free in 2017, which was a major achievement given that the island is three times larger than any other island in the world from which introduced red foxes have been removed, and because the island is inhabited, which created additional socio-political challenges around fox control. The connection of the island to the mainland via a bridge was an additional consideration, however genetic analysis of fox scats is able to differentiate island foxes from mainland foxes, and has shown that migration to



Fox with Eastern Barred Bandicoot
(Source: Phillip Island Nature Parks)

the island is at a rate of approximately one fox every five years.

Once the milestone of removing foxes had been achieved, Phillip Island Nature Parks commenced a trial introduction of Eastern Barred Bandicoots at Churchill Island, a 52 hectare island adjacent to Newhaven that is fox and cat free and consists of both agricultural land and bushland. Tracking of 16 animals showed that the females tended to remain within a couple of hundred metres of their release location, but the males roamed across open paddocks for more than a kilometre. There was a population increase of more than 50% within two years, there was no negative impact on three threatened plants on Churchill Island, and engagement events with the community ensured that there was public support for the project.

Following the resounding success of the trial, the next step was to introduce 67 bandicoots on Summerlands Peninsula at the western end of Phillip Island, between October and December 2017. These were taken from Churchill Island, as well as Woodlands, Hamilton and the Zoos Victoria captive breeding program, to increase the genetic diversity of the population. The Peninsula has dense tussock grasslands and bushland, however it is not free of feral cats, so a key focus of this release was to determine whether the bandicoots could establish in the presence of the cats. As well as posing a predation risk, cats are a vector for toxoplasmosis, a disease to which bandicoots are highly susceptible. Radiotracking and cage-trapping of bandicoots was undertaken to assess their survival rates, abundance, breeding conditions and to take blood samples to screen for toxoplasmosis.



Nocturnal release of an Eastern Barred Bandicoot (Source: Phillip Island Nature Parks)

From their release location west of the Penguin Parade, the bandicoots now number 500 and have spread across the whole peninsula, increasing their distribution 6 km to the north and east. While cat predation is thought to be having some impact on the rate of population increase, none of the trapped bandicoots have screened positive for toxoplasmosis. The disease has, however, been detected in some roadkilled bandicoots, and it is possible that the death of these animals occurred due to blindness, loss of coordination or risky behaviour exhibited by the animals as a result of their infection. In line with Phillip Island Nature Parks' efforts to control cat numbers on the island, Bass Coast Shire Council introduced a sunset-to-sunrise cat curfew in 2018.

Following the success of the bandicoot program, Phillip Island Nature Parks is now considering other threatened species that may benefit from an introduction to Phillip Island's fox-free haven. Community consultation has identified most support for establishing the Long-nosed Potoroo and Bush Stone-curlew based on their potential risks and benefits to tourism, farming, cultural heritage, ecological functioning and human health.

I would like to thank Duncan for sharing with us the inspiring work that Phillip Island Nature Parks has been undertaking to enable Eastern Barred Bandicoots to exist in the wild again, and I look forward to seeing the results of the organisation's future conservation endeavours.

Tamara Leitch

Witt's with that gully?

The scheduled excursion to Dutson Downs on 28 November was unable to go ahead, but instead Joëlle got us organised and a fine time was had by all at Witts Gully in Hernes Oak.

Denis was able to get us through the gate with vehicles and, chainsaw in hand, led us on an excellent tour of the site.

There is pedestrian access to this site from the McDonalds Track entrance, and it's well worth a stroll. Between us we were trying to work out how and when it got locked up. David Mules remembers it as largely farmland, John T. remembered having parties at the dam, and Jay and Joëlle used to go there to swim and cool down on hot days after work (before they found out that the jetty thingy was a big pump to suck all the water into the Yallourn open cut).



Birdwatchers botanising (Photo: Denis Nagle)

Another thing to speculate on is what will happen to this site when the Yallourn power station closes.

Unfortunately, the botanists weren't there for this excursion and we had to improvise with Phil recording and David M., Denis, Jay and Joëlle doing their darndest to identify plants – well might you laugh! And it made it hard to keep an eye on the birds at the same time. Is that called a lose-lose situation?



Twining Silkpod *Parsonsia brownii* (Photo: Phil Rayment)

However, without the serious botanists to slow us down, we were able to cover more ground. We even had time for some adventure-driving on a steep track over the back. Only one car got a little bit stuck, and not for very long.

It was a good day for birds. Satin Flycatchers were probably the stand-out sighting. Several whistlers chose to remain hidden, but while we were looking for them in the big Messmates near the dam we had to walk across a patch of grassland with lots of pretty flowers that Denis was kind enough to identify for us.

In terms of other fauna, I think the only furry thing we saw was a wallaby. We did have a great view of a Banjo (Pobblebonk) Frog sitting half out of the gravel beside the track at one of our stops. It was very large and either frozen in fear or very placid... hard to tell with frogs. It didn't hop off for quite a while so the photographers were happy.

Jay Duncan

A plant list for this excursion is available in Appendix I.

President's Report 2020 - 2021

If we were going to summarise the past year, we would say that 2020 has been a year like no other that this Club and other clubs have ever experienced.

We started the year with great expectations and plans for a full year of events. The year began with possibly our second most successful summer camp at Cape Paterson (only succeeded by our summer camp at Lake Tyers). We have to acknowledge and thank all those members who opened up their homes in Cape Paterson, and to particularly thank Phil and Wendy for organising the programs and accommodation at Lake Tyers.

In mid-March everything came to a grinding halt with the onset of COVID-19 restrictions, and then we were in lockdown. By the end of May we thought there was a light at the end of the tunnel and we began to think positively and plan some of our excursions, but restrictions were re-introduced and we were once again sent into lockdown. Towards the end of the year, we were able to resume some of our excursions and hear some presentations on Zoom. Thanks to Phil for facilitating those presentations.

Our first experience of using Zoom for our presentations was in October by Professor Rae Mackay who had been recently appointed as the Chair of the Board of the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority. Ray outlined the future rehabilitation of the coal mines in the Valley following the sequential closure of the power stations. This was followed by a talk from Duncan Sunderland on the introduction of the Eastern Barred Bandicoot onto Churchill Island. In 2021 we had become more experienced using Zoom, so we held a members' night in January with four speakers, and in March David M gave a presentation on 'Birds of Uganda' following the Club's AGM also held on Zoom.

Our excursions proceeded where possible and our first one was to Nangara Reserve near Jindivick in June, followed by an excursion to the west side of Tyers Park, both with a limit of 10 members. Several members went on a whale cruise in September in some rough conditions and our annual Bird Challenge went ahead in December despite Birdlife cancelling this year's event.

We elected some of our office bearers for the next two years but I was sorry that David stepped down as our long-serving treasurer. David has held that position for 15 years and managed our accounts and we are now in a very strong financial position. He has not only managed our accounts but has been our leader in our bird group excursions and has always been active in setting up our general meetings and putting things away following the meetings. I hope we continue to see you David at our future meetings. I'd also like to thank Denis who is stepping down as our Conservation Coordinator.

It was sad to hear that our previous long-serving treasurer passed away in October 2020. Bruce served as our treasurer from 1996 to 2005 and was highly respected and popular among our members. He only retired due to ill health and spent several years in Margery Cole Aged Care in Traralgon. It has been a difficult time for Estelle, also a very active member, and their daughter Louise, especially with the extreme restrictions on visits during the coronavirus pandemic. We wish them well and hope to see Estelle return to our regular meetings.

We thank all those members who have accepted nominations for positions on our committee. We also extend a special welcome to our two new committee members: Marja Bouman, who has accepted the treasurer's position, and Irene Proebsting, who will be our new Conservation Coordinator. Both of

these positions are very important for our Club and we ask all members to give them every support in their new roles.

David Stickney

CLUB SUMMER CAMP 2021 – Part 1

In one of the best attended Club camps on record, 40 members and friends converged on the small township of Lake Tyers Beach on Friday 5th February. Nearly everyone stayed in cabins or on campsites in the Lake Tyers Caravan Park, attractively located right on the foreshore.



Nowa Nowa Wetlands Walk (Photo: Will Norden)

With three full days to explore the region, the excursions program included several sites in Lake Tyers State Park – the Marsdenia Rainforest circuit walk and the track along Toorloo Arm from Cherry Tree picnic area on Saturday morning, and Lonely Bay with its important patch of warm temperate rainforest on Monday afternoon. We were grateful that noted field botanist and Bairnsdale & District Field Naturalists Club member James Turner led our walk at Lonely Bay, and he also joined us on Saturday afternoon for visits to sites in and near Nowa Nowa, including the Wetlands Walk along Nowa Nowa Arm and the historic Stony Creek Trestle Bridge.

On Sunday morning, we made short visits to two birding areas in Lake Tyers Beach township area, the community-managed Oneonta Reserve and the coastal trail from Red Bluff. Many members enjoyed a three-hour eco-cruise on board Lonsdale on Sunday afternoon, whilst a smaller group explored the diverse plants and birdlife of Nyerimilang Park, where we were welcomed by the Friends Group. Monday morning was spent at the Log Crossing on Mississippi Creek in the Colquhoun State Forest, which proved particularly rewarding for birdlife.

Mention should also be made of the after-dark opportunities provided by John Poppins to experience the use of his thermal-sensing camera equipment for locating nocturnal wildlife. On the social side, we enjoyed dinner together at the Waterwheel Tavern on Saturday evening. Good weather over the three days added to the enjoyment of the extended weekend, relished after the prolonged restrictions of 2020. Thanks go to Wendy Savage, Phil Rayment and Alix Williams for their parts in the planning and operation of the camp.

Phil Rayment

Marsdenia Rainforest Walk & Toorloo Arm – Saturday morning

Both of these fascinating excursion sites in the Lake Tyers State Park were accessed from Cherry Tree Track. We wish the rangers luck in stretching their budget to grade the roads in the park.

It's interesting to speculate on how long it may take for the cherry trees along this track, assumed to be Cherry Ballart *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, to kill off a few more eucalypts and create opportunities for the seed-spreading fauna to increase the extent of the rainforest.

Our first stop was the Marsdenia Rainforest Loop track and our first look at some East Gippsland Warm Temperate Rainforest. These are some of the plants that we were seeing:



Wombat Berry
Eustrephus latifolius

A common component of warm-temperate rainforest and moist lowland forests from the Mitchell River Gorge area eastwards. Also Qld, NSW, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia.



Milk-vine
Marsdenia rostrata

Apart from an isolated occurrence at Tarra Valley in the Strzelecki Ranges, apparently confined in Victoria to rainforest gullies and wet sclerophyll forests east of the Gippsland Lakes.



Blue Howittia
Howittia trilocularis

Locally common along streams, rainforest margins, and in moist lowland eucalypt forests eastward from about Bairnsdale.

(Photos: Jay Duncan; distribution information: VicFlora)

As the path went down into the rainforest gully, the light levels dropped (and the traffic noise increased). Bill Peel, formerly of CSIRO, studied these rainforests for many years. He held the view that they persisted in moist and sheltered places where the earliest and most primitive life forms from Gondwana such as fungi, lichens, slime-moulds, ferns and mosses were able to survive. All were in evidence at the Marsdenia Loop walk.

Looking at the forest floor also supported Peel's contention that rainforests have a thinner layer of leaf litter than the surrounding sclerophyll forests. This is because they are a self-sustaining system where the life forms on the forest floor digest the leaf litter and return it as nutrients to the plants. The soil itself has very low fertility.

The light is kept low by canopy trees with dense foliage; in this case Lilly-pilly was the dominant species. Vines add to the canopy while taking up minimal space at ground level.

The birdos in our group were happy to see Black-faced Monarchs on the edge of the rainforest proper. This bird is a rainforest-dependent, insectivorous, summer-breeding migrant to the East Gippsland rainforests. Its distribution is shown as east of the Mitchell River.

Fructivorous and seed-eating birds and flying foxes are key to establishing and re-seeding rainforests.

The major Gippsland rainforest tree species, Lilly-pilly, Sweet Pittosporum and Muttonwood, are all fruiting trees with dense canopies.

Our next stop was at a picnic ground on the Toorloo Arm at the end of Cherry Tree Track, where there was another short walk in totally different vegetation.

This spot was both accessible and interesting. The botany wonks saw lots of plants to puzzle over, and the birdos enjoyed watching a new generation of Scarlet Honeyeaters developing.

J. Duncan

See Appendix II for a photograph, taken from Bill Peel's rainforest restoration manual, showing natural succession from eucalypt forest to rainforest at Lakes Entrance.



Rainforest canopy encroaching on eucalypt forest at Marsdenia Walk (Photo: Jay Duncan)

Nowa Nowa area – Saturday afternoon

This afternoon we met up with James Turner from the Bairnsdale FNC, with his considerable knowledge of the local area. He first led us on a walk around part of the Nowa Nowa wetlands, fringed by Swamp Paperbark *Melaleuca ericifolia* and Common Reed *Phragmites australis*. Near the start of the walk James pointed out Round-leaf Mint-bush *Prostanthera rotundifolia*. The wetland was a rich resource for the Krauatungalung people – Manna Gums for sugar, Blown-grass with seeds for making flour, Sea Celery for greens, the reeds for making knives and the paperbarks for wrapping foods.



Nowa Nowa Grevillea (left) and Large-leaf Hop-bush (Photos: Lorraine Norden)

From there we turned off the highway into the Colquhoun State Forest towards the Stony Creek Trestle Bridge, with an interesting flora stop en route to see the flowering Nowa Nowa Grevillea *Grevillea celata*, listed as vulnerable in Victoria and found only in this area. Other species of note here were the prickly Spiny Bossiaea *Bossiaea obcordata*, both male and female flowering shrubs of the dioecious Large-leaf Hop-bush *Dodonaea triquetra* and Oat Spear-grass *Anisopogon avenaceus*.

We continued on to the historic Stony Creek Trestle Bridge, an impressive structure built in 1916 when the existing rail line from Melbourne to Bairnsdale was extended to Orbost. The 97 km rail line extension through rugged country was reputed to have been the most difficult rail project undertaken in Victoria. In service for over 60 years, it was damaged by fire in 1980, with the last train crossing in 1988. At 247 m long and 20 m high, it is the largest standing bridge of its kind in the State and is

a fine example of the early engineering skills that utilised the resources found onsite (information from the sign).

Along the path beside the bridge, a Yellow-bellied Water-skink was resting on a log. The gully was rather weedy, with lots of Cabbage White butterflies on the prolific thistles, but up on the drier ridge the vegetation improved, with a varied community of heath plants, including the tiny Pomax *Pomax umbellata*.

On the way home, the last stop was to see the Blotched Hyacinth-orchid *Dipodium variegatum*, listed as rare in Victoria and limited to a few disjunct sites in open forest in East Gippsland. After quite a trek, James managed to find the needle in a haystack, and although the specimen was past its prime, it was special to see it. We were fortunate to benefit from James' local knowledge.

Lorraine Norden



Stony Creek Trestle Bridge (Photo: Will Norden)

Gippsland Lakes Eco-cruise – Sunday afternoon

The Lake Tyers Beach camp participants who went on the Gippsland Lakes eco-cruise enjoyed it immensely. Boy, what a start – heading down through the entrance channel as though we were going out to sea, we were met by standing ocean waves crashing into the mouth of the entrance. Australian Fur Seals were riding the waves, lazing and rafting in groups. The boat was a terrific platform to view these sub-adult seals up close. They were big. We could look them in the eye and admire their whiskers.

We cruised the channels and around the islands listening intently to the interesting, apolitical and accurate narrative provided by the knowledgeable captain. We were surrounded by a plethora of birds. Pelicans displayed expert flying skills soaring on thermals and overcoming the strong winds overhead. Cormorants, including Black-faced Cormorants, perched on the shorelines and jetties. Whistling Kites and Swamp Harriers scanned the water for a meal. Swans were feeding and protecting cygnets of various ages.

The captain explained the presence and behaviour of the wildlife in terms of the habitat, water depth, currents, nutrients, climate and seasonality. He explained the vegetation communities – littoral rainforest, sand islands and sclerophyll forest. We were shown an enormous Sea-eagle nest that had been in use for over 20 years up until recently. We all learnt something as we experienced the various environments that we cruised through.

Passing cliffs of the Nyerimilang Heritage Park, we thought we glimpsed the upended derrieres of members of the Botany Group as they examined the plant communities there. Or perhaps they were just waving to us as we passed by.

We finished up with a final visit to the seals at the entrance, who were still there three hours later, showing us their prowess in the waves.

John Arkinstall and Wendy Davies

Log Crossing Picnic Area – Monday morning

Matt and I arrived slightly late to our Log Crossing excursion, having stopped on the way for a second breakfast of steak and mushroom pie from the award-winning bakery in town, and then taken a pot-hole 'shortcut' along Armstrong Track as recommended by Google.

At our destination, we were greeted by Phil's dulcet tones ringing out across the picnic area as he addressed a very large group of avid naturalists regarding the day's itinerary and the history of the area. Conditions were perfect for birdwatching – clear and sunny, with only the slightest breeze.

As we headed off in a southerly direction from the carpark, we crossed a bridge over Mississippi Creek. Although the creek bed was dry, it was several metres wide, contained some large logs, and from the erosion of the banks it appeared that a substantial volume of water had flowed through there at some stage. Not substantial enough for some, however, who bemoaned this creek sharing its name with a majestic American river.

Our group then split off in three directions; I headed west with some others along the Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail, which follows an old tramway line used for transporting granite from a nearby quarry to Lakes Entrance from the early 1900s to mid-1930s. Some of this granite was used to construct the current entrance to the Gippsland Lakes after the old timber one had been severely damaged by marine molluscs known as "shipworms" (*Teredo* sp). Chunks of the beautiful pink and grey granite were present along the edge of the track.



Shell of *Pygmipanda kershawi*
(Photo: Tamara Leitch)

As we followed the creek, which consisted of paperbark swamp with elements of warm temperate rainforest and tall gums, we were serenaded by the calls of many bird species. The most vocal were the Rufous Fantails, Golden Whistlers, Brown Gerygones and a Superb Lyrebird, and every now and then a Whipbird, Yellow Robin, Grey Shrike-thrush or Lewin's Honeyeater would chime in. Other nice birds to see were Dusky Woodswallows, an Olive-backed Oriole, Satin Bowerbirds and a Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike. Matt photographed a Shining Bronze-cuckoo, and I thought I'd heard a Horsfield's, but Rohan confirmed later that it had been a Crested

Shrike-tit, which was equally as pleasing. Numerous Yellow-bellied Water-skinks were seen basking on logs in the gully, as well as several Tau Emerald dragonflies, and I found one old shell of the snail *Pygmipanda kershawi*.

Approximately 1 km from the picnic ground, we came to a wooden crossing over the creek, which marked the end of the Tramway Walk section. Most people returned to the carpark and headed elsewhere for lunch before our afternoon excursion, however I ventured up a mountain bike trail called Tin Shed Track. The track was narrow and winding as it made its way uphill into drier habitat. It was fairly quiet and becoming warm and humid by this stage, but I was delighted to find three flies adorned with interesting colours and patterns.



Microtropesa sinuata (Photo: Tamara Leitch)

On my way back towards the carpark, I bumped into Matt and we decided to walk a short way up the Limestone Box Forest Trail. The habitat was drier up here, mostly stringybark forest with a bracken understorey. Amidst the monotonous bracken, I noted an occasional Satin Everlasting or Narrow-leaf Geebung, and Matt found a nice metallic red and green bug.



Neoaratus hercules with moth prey (Photo: Tamara Leitch)

Back at the carpark, a Hercules Robberfly landed on Matt's posterior, and upon closer inspection we noticed the fly was clasping a large moth which I believed to be *Eutrichopidia latinus*. After snapping a photo, we drove around to the first carpark on Uncle Road to have lunch, so that we could, at the same time, look for a Lace Monitor that had reportedly been seen by other members of our group. We were successful in having lunch, but unfortunately not in locating the lizard, before we departed for Lonely Bay.

Tamara Leitch

Bird Challenge Count 2021

Thursday 2 Dec	Crinigan Road Reserve (half day)
Friday 3 Dec	Edward Hunter Reserve, Moe Treatment Works & Lake Narracan
Saturday 4 Dec	Yarragon South, Uralla Reserve & Trafalgar Treatment Ponds
Saturday 4 Dec	Traralgon Railway Reservoir Conservation Reserve & Wirilda Environment Park
Sunday 5 Dec	Mathison Park & Morwell National Park

The count commences 9 am at the first location in each list. Please book with Joëlle 0459 504 305.

Latrobe Valley Naturalist is the official publication of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club Inc. The Club subscription includes the "Naturalist".

Brief contributions and short articles on any aspect of natural history are invited from members of all clubs. Articles, including those covering Club speakers and excursions, would typically be around one A4 side in length, should not exceed 1,000 words, and may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Photos should be sent as an attachment and be a maximum of 1 megabyte in size.

Responsibility for the accuracy of information and opinions expressed in this magazine rests with the author of the article.

Contributions should be addressed to:

Ms Tamara Leitch
The Editor
LVFNC Inc.
PO Box 839
TRARALGON VIC 3844

Phone: 0438 372 186

Email: tleitch@wideband.net.au

Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club Incorporation No. A0005323T
ISSN 1030-5084 ABN 86 752 280 972

The Naturalist is generously printed by the office of Russell Northe MLA, Member for Morwell

Deadline for articles to be considered for inclusion in the next issue (November/December): 29 November 2021

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I – Plant list for Witts Gully excursion, 28 November 2020 (P. Rayment *et al.*)

Plants recorded along main vehicle track between entrance gate 114 on McDonalds Track and the main dam.
Introduced species not included.

FERNS

<i>Blechnum minus</i>	Soft Water-fern	Blechnaceae
<i>Blechnum nudum</i>	Fishbone Water-fern	Blechnaceae
<i>Cyathea australis</i>	Rough Tree-fern	Cyatheaceae
<i>Polystichium proliferum</i>	Mother Shield Fern	Dryopteridaceae
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Bracken	Dennstaedtiaceae

MONOCOTYLEDONS

<i>Gahnia radula</i>	Thatch Saw-sedge	Cyperaceae
<i>Lepidosperma sp.</i>	Sword Sedge	Cyperaceae
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush	Asparagaceae
<i>Poa labillardierei</i>	Common Tussock-grass	Poaceae
<i>Tetrarrhena juncea</i>	Forest Wire-grass	Poaceae
<i>Xanthorrhoea minor</i>	Small Grass-tree	Asphodelaceae

DICOTYLEDONS

Trees and shrubs

<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood	Fabaceae
<i>Acacia mucronata</i>	Narrow-leaved Wattle	Fabaceae
<i>Bedfordia arborescens</i>	Blanket-leaf	Asteraceae
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria	Pittosporaceae
<i>Cassinia aculeata</i>	Common Cassinia	Asteraceae
<i>Cassinia longifolia</i>	Shiny Cassinia	Asteraceae
<i>Cassinia trinerva</i>	Three-veined Cassinia	Asteraceae
<i>Eucalyptus cypellocarpa</i> &/or <i>viminalis</i>	Mountain Grey/Manna Gum	Myrtaceae
<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>	Messmate Stringybark	Myrtaceae
<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>	Narrow-leaved Peppermint	Myrtaceae
<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	Hop Goodenia	Goodeniaceae
<i>Hedycarya angustifolia</i>	Austral Mulberry	Monimiaceae
<i>Kunzea sp.</i>	Burgan	Myrtaceae
<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	Prickly Tea-tree	Myrtaceae
<i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i>	Scented Paperbark	Myrtaceae
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	Swamp Paperbark	Myrtaceae
<i>Olearia lirata</i>	Snowy Daisy-bush	Asteraceae
<i>Ozothamnus ferrugineus</i>	Tree Everlasting	Asteraceae
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Sweet Pittosporum	Pittosporaceae
<i>Pomaderris aspera</i>	Hazel Pomaderris	Rhamnaceae

<i>Prostanthera lasianthos</i>	Victorian Christmas Bush	Laminaceae
<i>Solanum aviculare</i>	Kangaroo Apple	Solanaceae

Climbers

<i>Clematis aristata</i>	Mountain Clematis	Ranunculaceae
<i>Clematis glycinoides</i>	Forest Clematis	Ranunculaceae
<i>Pandorea pandorana</i>	Wonga Vine	Bignoniaceae
<i>Parsonsia brownii</i>	Twining Silkpod	Apocynaceae

Herbs

<i>Amperea xiphoclada</i>	Broom Spurge	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Australina pusilla</i>	Shade Nettle	Urticaceae
<i>Linum marginale</i>	Native Flax	Linaceae
<i>Sambucus gaudichaudiana</i>	White Elderberry	Caprifoliaceae
<i>Senecio linearifolius</i>	Fireweed Groundsel	Asteraceae
<i>Senecio sp.</i>	Fireweeds	Asteraceae
<i>Solanum prinophyllum</i>	Nightshade	Solanaceae
<i>Stellaria flaccida</i>	Forest Starwort	Caryophyllaceae
<i>Viola hederacea</i>	Ivy-leaf Violet	Violaceae
<i>Wahlenbergia sp.</i>	Bluebell	Campanulaceae

APPENDIX II – Excerpt from Bill Peel’s *Rainforest Restoration Manual for South-eastern Australia* (2010) demonstrating succession of species in a plant community at Lakes Entrance (provided by J. Duncan)

SUCCESSION: THE CHANGE IN PLANT COMPOSITION OVER TIME ON THE SAME SITE



Figure AS16-1. Palmers Road, Lakes Entrance, Victoria. Although not naturally considered to be rainforest habitat (in the absence of fire), many roadsides are clearly showing succession towards rainforest. The first to arrive was **1.** Coast Grey Box *Eucalyptus bosistoana* (now dead): it provided the perch for the animals that dropped the seed of **2.** the Cherry Ballart *Exocarpos cupressiformis*. This facultative root parasite killed the Coast Grey Box, but not before it and the Cherry Ballart had attracted birds that dropped the seed of **3.** Sweet Pittosporum *P. undulatum* (L), **4.** Common Boobialla *Myporum insulare* and **5.** Seaberry Saltbush *Rhagodia candolleana* (foreground and right). The white flowered **6.** Forest Clematis *C. glycinoides* blew in on the wind and germinated in the shelter of the Cherry.